

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A deck for mowers comprising:

an upper deck wall having a raised central portion and sloping downward in all directions;

a right end and a left end of said upper deck wall positioned downward in a smooth radius whereby a left skirt and a right skirt can be attached to said left end and said right end respectively;

a lower deck wall positioned under said upper deck wall and ~~joined~~ affixed to said upper deck wall at the outer perimeter of said upper deck wall;

front and rear cross members attached to said upper deck wall and said lower deck wall at the front and rear of both said upper deck wall and said lower deck wall where said upper deck wall and said lower deck wall meet;

a frame member positioned centrally between said upper deck wall and said lower deck wall ~~in a central position~~ and parallel to said rear cross member whereby multiple sections are created for torsional stiffness, said frame member further comprising a left frame section, a middle frame section and a right frame section;

a left channel member positioned perpendicular and between said front cross member and said rear cross member, said left frame section and said middle frame section being positioned on opposing sides of said left channel member; and

a right channel member positioned perpendicular and between said front cross member and said rear cross member, said middle frame section and said right frame

section being positioned on opposing sides of said right channel member; and

~~front and rear cross members attached to said upper deck and said lower deck at the front and rear of both said upper deck and said lower deck where said upper deck and said lower deck meet.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The deck for mowers of Claim 1 wherein said rear cross member has centrally located J-shaped pieces attached thereto wherein said J-shaped pieces partially overlap said rear cross member perpendicular thereto.

3. (Original) The deck for mowers of Claim 1 wherein said front cross member is bounded by said left skirt and said right skirt.

4. (Original) The deck for mowers of Claim 1 wherein said left skirt and said right skirt further comprise an apex at an upper corner of said skirts.

5. (Original) The deck for mowers of Claim 4 wherein said left skirt and said right skirt each comprise a skid shoe that borders the outer bottom edge of said skirts and extends from the midsection of said skirts to the front of said skirts at said apex.

6. (Original) The deck for mowers of Claim 1 further comprising a hitch assembly ~~supported by~~ attached to said left and right channel members and said front cross member.

7. (Original) The deck for mowers of Claim 6 wherein said hitch assembly is positioned perpendicular to said front cross member.

8. (Currently Amended) A deck for mowers comprising:

an upper deck wall;

a lower deck wall positioned below said upper deck wall;

a front cross member positioned forward and beneath said upper deck wall and said lower deck wall defining a front perimeter;

a rear cross member positioned rearward and beneath said upper deck wall and said lower deck wall defining a rear perimeter;

a left skirt and a right skirt positioned to opposing sides and beneath said upper deck wall and said lower deck wall;

a frame member positioned centrally between said upper deck wall and said lower deck wall and parallel to said rear cross member whereby multiple sections are created for torsional stiffness, said frame member further comprising a left frame section, a middle frame section and a right frame section;

a left channel member positioned perpendicular and between said front cross member and said rear cross member, said left frame section and said middle frame section being positioned on opposing sides of said left channel member;

a right channel member positioned perpendicular and between said front cross member and said rear cross member, said middle frame section and said right frame section being positioned on opposing sides of said right channel member;

wherein said upper deck wall comprises:

a horizontal segment positioned centrally on said upper deck wall with its length parallel to said rear cross member and having a front and rear side;

a first sloping section sloping downward from said rear side of said horizontal segment to said rear cross member;

a second sloping section sloping downward from said front side of said horizontal segment to said front cross member;

a first sloping end sloping downward from a first end of said horizontal segment to a first lip positioned adjacent said left skirt;

a second sloping end sloping downward from a second end of said horizontal segment to a second lip positioned adjacent said right skirt;

at least two sloping diagonal sections sloping diagonally from said horizontal segment to said first lip; and

at least two sloping diagonal sections sloping diagonally from said horizontal segment to said second lip.

9. (Currently Amended) A deck for mowers comprising:

an upper section;

a central section positioned adjacent said upper section;

a lower section positioned below said upper section;

a front cross member positioned forward and beneath said upper section and said lower section defining a front perimeter;

a rear cross member positioned rearward and beneath said upper section and said lower section defining a rear perimeter;

a first skirt and a second skirt positioned to opposing sides and beneath said

upper section and said lower section;

a frame member positioned centrally between said upper section and said lower section and parallel to said rear cross member whereby multiple sections are created for torsional stiffness, said frame member further comprising a left frame section, a middle frame section and a right frame section;

a left channel member positioned perpendicular and between said front cross member and said rear cross member, said left frame section and said middle frame section being positioned on opposing sides of said left channel member;

a right channel member positioned perpendicular and between said front cross member and said rear cross member, said middle frame section and said right frame section being positioned on opposing sides of said right channel member;

wherein said central section comprises:

a horizontal segment positioned centrally with its length parallel to said rear cross member and having a front and rear side;

a first sloping end sloping downward from a first end of said horizontal segment to a first lip positioned adjacent said first skirt;

a second sloping end sloping downward from a second end of said horizontal segment to a second lip positioned adjacent said second skirt; and

wherein said upper section comprises:

a first sloping section sloping downward from said rear side of said horizontal segment to said rear cross member;

a second sloping section sloping downward from said front side of said horizontal segment to said front cross member;

at least two sloping diagonal sections sloping diagonally from said horizontal segment to said first lip; and
at least two sloping diagonal sections sloping diagonally from said horizontal segment to said second lip.

10. (New) The deck for mowers of Claim 1 wherein said wherein said upper deck exposes a portion of said frame member.